

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois



712 - 18th Avenue
Moline, Illinois
(309) 762-0167

January 2004

www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Scott Raes

Vice President

Robert VandeWiele

Secretary

Kim Kochuyt

Treasurer

Alan Hoyt

Backhome1@mchsi.com

Member at Large

Robert VandeWiele

Grant Committee Chair

Kay Verstraete

Past President

Patrick Van Nevel

Honorary Consul

Patrick Van Nevel

bavnl@aol.com

Membership

Marlene Shattuck

Waffle Chairman

Jim DeSchinckel

**Flemings in the
World**

Art Holevoet

Newsletter Editor

Sue VanWatermeulen

suevanwatermeulen@hotmail.com

Genealogy

Bev Francque

Center for Belgian Culture

Open Wed. & Sat.

1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Upcoming
Events**



Jan 1 *HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Jan 3 *Waffle Breakfast*

8:00 am-12:00 pm

Jan 3 *Belgian Lacemakers*

1:00-4:00 pm

Feb 7 *Waffle Breakfast*

8:00 am-12:00 pm

Feb 7 *Belgian Lacemakers*

1:00 pm-4:00 pm



Are you familiar with the **John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity?** It is a way to raise funds for your favorite charity: the CBC scholarship program. Individuals can pledge and promise to donate any dollar amount for each birdie made during the John Deere Classic which is played in July. Mary and Larry Lorensen are the co-chairs of the CBC Birdies for Charity. More information will be available when time gets closer.

News ...



The Geneseo Middle School took a field trip to the CBC in November. They had a great time and sent a thank you letter with all the student's signatures. The letter wrote: Dear President Raes, Thank you very much for giving us a warm welcome the day of our local history field trip. Your dedication to keeping Belgian culture in the Quad Cities is inspiring. Thanks for treating us to cookies and punch. It was so kind of you! We enjoyed your volunteers and the presentations they gave. We understand the Belgian heritage a bit more thanks to your museum.



Come and join us for our monthly meetings. You will learn what goes on, what we plan to do and have the opportunity to be heard. Next meeting, is Monday, January 20th at 5:30 at the CBC.



If you have a change of address you may e-mail Marlene Shattuck at mglshattuck@qconline.com or write to: CBC Membership, 712 – 18th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265



Help us with the new items: E-mail your article to the newsletter editor, drop it off or mail it to the CBC attn: Newsletter editor. We will try to accommodate your requests.



Annual Christmas party at Butterworth Center



CBC members started off the Christmas celebrations in style at the Butterworth Center for the Annual CBC Christmas party. The food was just wonderful and it was very clear to all those present that the old traditions remain alive and well amongst the CBC members. From the salads to the casseroles, breads and deserts.... It was very evident that our members went all out to show case their talent.

A big thank you to the many generous donors of the raffle prizes.

Our president Scott Raes was not able to participate as he was serving duty as Third Ward Alderman at the Moline City Council meeting. Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel welcomed the guests and thanked all the volunteers. Speaking to the large group in the wonderfully decorated library, Patrick stated we would not be able to have this event at this wonderful setting had it not been for the generosity of Catherine Butterworth. Mrs. Butterworth left this magnificent

property in a trust to benefit the citizens of Moline. Furthermore, she provided for trust funds to cover operating and maintenance costs.

Patrick expressed his appreciation and complemented the Center for Belgian Culture Board for its initiative to establish the Center for Belgian Culture Endowment Fund. This initiative will ensure our 40 year old organization preserves and maintains the Belgian Heritage and its significant impact on the Quad Cities for future generations. Please feel free to contact your board members to learn how you can assist in this project.

Patrick thanked all volunteers and supporters and a special mention was given to outgoing waffle chair Gene Fowler and Bob and Elaine Hendrickx for their many years of dedicated service. The Moline Boys Choir rounded off a wonderful event with a ½ hour Christmas program.



News from Belgium



The following press release was issued December 14, by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs : "Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Louis Michel have welcomed the news of Saddam Hussein's arrest as a positive development. They stressed that this will undoubtedly have a favorable influence on the stabilization and internal security in Iraq. With the arrest of the dictator, responsible for numerous violations of human rights, justice can finally prevail. This is a good thing for the political reconstruction of the Iraqi institutions because it can accelerate the transfer of power to the Iraqi people in the framework of the United Nations and of multilateralism."



Already in April, Minister Michel had expressed his satisfaction that the Hussein Regime was gone and, in September, Prime Minister Verhofstadt had stated his conviction in his speech to the annual assembly of Belgian Ambassadors in Brussels that "our world is better off without a dictator like Saddam Hussein... The time has now come to look ahead and build a democratic, peaceful and prosperous Iraq." Those words sound as timely today as they did some months ago.



Two out of three young Belgians use a cell phone, usually with a pre-paid card instead of a service plan. And the cell phone is perceived by them as an object of prestige and social recognition. Monthly, it costs their parents an average of 17 to 18 euros. A recent study showed that the cell phone helps them integrate better with their peers. When it comes to the computer, only 3 out of 10 children age 11 and 12 surf the net, but that number increases to over half at age 15 and 3 out 4 at age 19.



The EU "Concordia" peacekeeping mission in FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) will be sending over 400 European troops home for the holidays, including 50 Belgians. They will be succeeded by some 200 police officers under the leadership of Belgian Bart D'Hooge.



Belgian SN Brussels Airlines and American Airlines have announced this week the upcoming launch of their joint daily flight between New York's JFK Airport and Brussels National Airport (Zaventem). Both airlines already operate a number of code-share flights, including Brussels-Chicago. A Boeing 767-300 will be used for the NY flight.



Pierre-Olivier Beckers, CEO of Delhaize-Le Lion, and great-grandson of one of the company's founders, received attention in the Belgian press last week, because his company's shares have gone up 250% since last March. Success story: his group makes 70% of its profits through its US branches (Food Lion, Cub Food).



Two F-16s from the Belgian Air Force collided in mid-air during an exercise over the Ardennes and crashed, killing one of the two pilots, Lieutenant Colonel Ronny Vaerten, an exceptional pilot and a former F-16 Squadron Commander. He was a graduate of Edwards AFB School for Test Pilots (1996). He leaves behind his wife and two children.



Saving has always been a big thing among the Belgian population. And today's figures are particularly impressive: the average Belgian has stashed 12,500 euros in her/his savings account. This year's level is 40% higher than the year 2000 level, and 129% higher than 10 years ago! The investment in savings accounts has almost reached the level of the common investment funds (SICAV) and is more than double the bank's obligations. Hard to explain, as savings accounts have seldom yielded less than at this moment (1.5% interest + 0.5% fidelity bonus), barely enough to compensate for current inflation. "Rush to safety"? For fiscal reasons, the average Belgian household has opened 4 savings accounts. There are currently 17,000,000 savings accounts in Belgium.



Belgian Federal Minister of Economic Affairs (in charge of Foreign Trade) Fientje Moerman was the victim of a rather unusual burglary at her home in Ghent, this past week : she and her husband were put to sleep with sleeping gas blown in their apartment by the intruders... who reportedly left with a meager bounty.



The number of Belgians who surf the net has greatly increased this year: 48% of Belgians older than 15 years surf at least once a month on the Web, which represents a 24% increase over last year. The number of women surfers has increased by 33%.



NOVA 839

Flemish Beer Stew

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 lbs lean beef stew meat | 1/4 cup wine vinegar |
| 2 lbs large onions, chopped | 1/2 cup chopped parsley |
| 1/2 cup flour | 2 tsp thyme |
| 1/2 cup sunflower oil | Ground pepper |
| 6 garlic cloves, crushed | 24 oz beef broth, kept hot |
| 1 tbsp salt | 24 oz beer |
| 3 tbsp brown sugar | |

Instructions:

Preheat oven at 325 F.

Cut stew meat into rather small pieces and roll lightly into the flour.

Heat oil, then stir fry meat, a little at a time, until golden.

Do the same with onion and garlic, adding more oil if needed.

Place everything in a 6 - 8 quart deep pan, adding the brown sugar, 2 tablespoons of vinegar, parsley, thyme, salt and pepper.

Mix. Add hot broth and beer.

Cover and bake for 2 hours.

Remove pan from the oven, place it on the stove over medium fire, add balance of vinegar and bring sauce to boiling.

Cover and cook for 15 minutes longer.

Recipe serves 6

CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE
OF WESTERN ILLINOIS, INC.
712 - 18th Ave., Moline, IL 61265



AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Paul & Marie Callens
Waterstraat 18
8740 Pittem, Belgium

00132/0001



Jan Volunteer Information ...

The **January schedule** for gift counter and host/hostess volunteers is as follows:

Date	Gift Counter	Host/Hostess
Saturday, Jan. 3	Evelyn Van Puyvelde	Al Van Puyvelde
Wednesday, Jan. 7	Jon + Gen Vrombaut	Dorene Mummert
Saturday, Jan. 10	Mary Rose DeCoster	Maureen Schweitzer
Wednesday, Jan. 14	Mary Lou Andrae	Clara Van De Veire
Saturday, Jan. 17	Margaret Wadsworth	Bill Wadsworth
Wednesday, Jan. 21	Elaine Hendrickx	Bob Hendrickx
Saturday, Jan. 24	Joanne Hoyt	Al Hoyt
Wednesday, Jan. 28	Bev Francque	Stan Francque
Saturday, Jan. 31	Barb Van Nevel	Patrick Van Nevel

Please call Pat Van Nevel at 332-8752 as soon as possible if there is a conflict or if you need to change your scheduled time.